

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) A connecting construction for components of a system frame, comprising:
  - a framework having frame struts and a cross bracket connecting the frame struts,
  - a sheet steel corner plate which is arranged in each ~~case in~~ the region in which the cross bracket is connected to the frame struts and which has a corner recess in the corner region of the plate in which the cross bracket is connected to the frame struts,
  - a coupling unit that is connectable to the frame strut via the sheet steel corner plate,
  - a further recess in the sheet steel corner plate approximately level with the corner recess and offset inward,
  - a further coupling unit having a first coupling element and a second coupling element,
  - wherein the first coupling element is connectable to a frame tube,
  - wherein the second coupling element is fastenable in the further recess of the sheet steel corner plate with at least one of a positive and non-positive fit, and has a spacer profile and a projecting profile arranged on the free end side of the spacer profile said projecting profile, being connectable in the further recess of the sheet steel corner plate with at least one of a positive and non-positive fit.
3. (Currently Amended) The connecting construction as claimed in claim 2, the projecting profile is a hammer head and the further

recess (24) is a slot so that in order to connect the further coupling unit (30) to the sheet steel corner plate, the projecting profile can be introduced into the further recess (24) as far as the a stop of the spacer profile and the at least one of a positive and non-positive fit is produced by rotation of the further coupling unit by said rotation causing the hammer head of the projecting profile (38) to engage at least in some area behind the sheet steel corner plate (20).

4. (Previously Presented) The connecting construction as claimed in claim 3, wherein the slot is arranged vertically upright.
5. (Previously Presented) The connecting construction as claimed in claim 3, wherein the slot is arranged horizontally.
6. (Withdrawn) The connecting construction as claimed in claim 13, wherein the further recess is arranged spaced apart from the lower edge of the cross bracket .
7. (Withdrawn) The connecting construction as in claim 13, wherein the first coupling element of the further coupling unit is a tube half-coupling.
8. (Withdrawn) The connecting construction as in claim 13, wherein the further coupling unit is a single-piece metal cast part.
9. (Withdrawn) The connecting construction as in claim 13, wherein the length of the projecting profile is selected in such a manner that the clear distance of a frame tube, which is connected parallel to the cross bracket in the first coupling element of the further coupling unit, from the sheet steel corner plate is greater than the length of the maximum projecting length relative to the

sheet steel corner plate of a coupling unit arranged in the corner recess.

10. (Withdrawn) The connecting construction as claimed in claims 2 and 3, characterized in that
  - a rotation prevention unit is provided which secures the further coupling unit (30) against rotation in a position in which it is connected to the sheet steel corner plate (20).
11. (Withdrawn) The connecting construction as in claim 13, wherein the further recess of the sheet steel corner plate has a cross-sectional deformation (68) pointing out of the plane of the sheet steel corner plate.
12. (Withdrawn) The connecting construction as claimed in claim 11, wherein the cross-sectional deformation is provided encircling the further recess.
13. (Withdrawn) A connecting construction for components of a system frame in a scaffolding, comprising:
  - a framework having frame struts and a cross bracket connecting the frame struts,
  - a sheet steel corner plate which is arranged in each case in the region in which the cross bracket is connected to the frame strut and which has a corner recess in the corner region of the plate in which the cross bracket is connected to the frame strut,
  - a coupling unit that is connectable to the frame strut via the sheet steel corner plate,
  - a further recess in the sheet steel corner plate approximately level with the corner recess and offset inward,
  - a further coupling unit having a first coupling element and a

second coupling element, wherein the first coupling element is connectable to a frame tube, and wherein the second coupling element is fastenable in the further recess of the sheet steel corner plate with at least one of a positive and non-positive fit, and

- an additional recess provided below the corner recess of the sheet steel corner plate, and an additional coupling unit that is connectable to the frame strut via the additional recess.

14. (Withdrawn) The connecting construction as claimed in claim 13, wherein the additional recess on the sheet steel corner plate is formed by a U-shaped recess which is open toward the longitudinal connecting edge of the sheet steel corner plate.
15. (Withdrawn) The connecting construction as claimed in claims 2 and 3, characterized in that  
a further coupling unit (30) is connected in each case in the further recess (24) to the two sheet steel corner plates (20) of a framework (10), and the coupling units (30) are connected to a continuous frame tube (40).
16. (Canceled)
17. (Currently Amended) A coupling apparatus for a frame system comprising a framework having frame struts and a cross bracket connecting the frame struts, a sheet steel corner plate which is arranged in each case in the region in which the cross bracket is connected to the frame struts and which has a corner recess in the corner region of the plate in which the cross bracket is connected to the frame struts, and a further recess in the sheet steel corner plate approximately level with the corner recess and offset inward, the coupling apparatus comprising:

Docket No.: 01954/000M900-US0

first and second coupling units, the first coupling unit being connectable to the frame strut via the sheet steel corner plate, and the second coupling unit being provided with a first coupling element and a second coupling element; and

a frame tube that is connectable to the first coupling element, wherein the second coupling element is fastenable in the further recess of a the sheet steel corner plate with at least one of a positive and non-positive fit, and the second coupling element has a spacer profile and a projecting profile arranged on the free end side of the spacer profile, said projecting profile being connectable into the further recess of the sheet steel corner plate with at least one of a positive and non-positive fit.

18. (Previously Presented) The coupling apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the projecting profile is a hammer head so that, in order to connect the second coupling unit to the sheet steel corner plate, the projecting profile can be introduced into the further recess as far as the stop of the spacer profile and the at least one of a positive and non-positive fit is produced by rotation of the first coupling unit by said rotation causing the hammer head of the projecting profile to engage at least in some area behind the sheet steel corner plate.
19. (Currently Amended) The coupling apparatus as claimed in claim ~~24~~ 16, wherein the first coupling element of the second coupling unit is a tube half-coupling.
20. (Withdrawn, Currently Amended) The coupling apparatus as claimed in claim ~~16~~ 24, wherein the first coupling unit is a single-piece cast part.

21. (Currently Amended) The coupling unit as claimed in claim one ~~or more of claims 16 to 17~~, characterized in that
- the length (L) of ~~the~~ a connecting profile (38) is selected in such a manner that the clear distance (L2) of a the frame tube (40), which is connected parallel to the cross bracket (14) in the first coupling ~~element~~ unit (32) of the further coupling unit (30), from the sheet steel corner plate (20) is greater than the length (L1) of the maximum projecting length relative to the sheet steel corner plate (20) of a coupling unit (52) arranged in the corner recess (22).
22. (Canceled)
23. (Withdrawn) A framework suitable for use within a connecting construction for components of a system frame in a scaffolding comprising:
- frame struts and a cross bracket connecting the frame struts,
  - a sheet steel corner plate which is arranged in each case in the region in which the cross bracket is connected to the frame strut and which has a corner recess in the corner region of the plate in which the cross bracket is connected to the frame strut,
  - a further recess in the sheet steel corner plate approximately level with the corner recess and offset inward, said further recess being used to connect a further coupling unit, the further coupling unit having a first coupling element and a second coupling element, wherein the first coupling element is connectable to a frame tube, and wherein the second coupling element is fastenable in the further recess of the sheet steel corner plate with at least one of a positive and non-positive fit, and
  - an additional recess provided in the sheet steel corner plate

below the corner recess of the sheet steel corner plate, and an additional coupling unit that is connectable to the frame strut, said additional recess being used to connect an additional coupling unit.

24. (New) A coupling apparatus for a frame system in a scaffolding comprising a framework having frame struts and a cross bracket connecting the frame struts, a sheet steel corner plate which is arranged in each region in which the cross bracket is connected to the frame struts and which has a corner recess in the corner region of the plate in which the cross bracket is connected to one of the frame struts, and a further recess in the sheet steel corner plate approximately level with the corner recess and offset inward, the coupling apparatus comprising:

first and second coupling units, wherein the first coupling unit is connectable to the frame strut via the sheet steel corner plate, and the second coupling unit is provided with a first coupling element and a second coupling element;

a frame tube that is connectable to the first coupling element, wherein the second coupling element is fastenable in the further recess of the sheet steel corner plate with at least one of a positive and non-positive fit; and

wherein the length of a connecting profile is selected in such a manner that the clear distance of the frame tube, which is connected parallel to the cross bracket in the first coupling unit of the further coupling unit, from the sheet steel corner plate is greater than the length of the maximum projecting length relative to the sheet steel corner plate of a coupling unit arranged in the corner recess.